

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Alaska Workforce Investment Board

Sarah Palin, Governor

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I am pleased to present the Alaska Workforce Investment Board's executive summary highlighting the Training Program Performance 2006 report, prepared for the board by the Research & Analysis section of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

As the lead planning and coordinating entity, the board provides policy oversight of state and federally funded job training and vocational education programs. AWIB members, a majority of whom are private sector leaders, examine employment trends and emerging occupations to ensure training efforts are aligned and Alaskans are ready for the good paying, high demand jobs that are available to them.

Each year the AWIB is required to report to the Alaska State Legislature on the performance and evaluation of training programs within its purview, as specified in Alaska Statute 23.15.580(b)(9) and (f). The report demonstrates that nearly 20,000 Alaska training participants exited the training programs covered in the report in 2006.

The full report may be found on our website (www.labor.state.ak.us/awib/home.htm). We will provide a physical copy to legislators upon request. The board is establishing this practice in the interests of reducing costs and responsible stewardship of our budget.

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board welcomes your support and perspectives. We look forward to working closely with you to build a quality workforce and a prosperous, satisfying future for all Alaskans.

Andy Baker, Chair
Alaska Workforce Investment Board

Alaska Workforce Investment Board Overview and Executive Summary

AWIB Vision

An Opportunity for Employment for All Alaskans.

- **Right Skills** - A prepared and motivated workforce.
- **Right Person** - Workers and employers connect.
- **Right Job** - Alaskans meeting their potential for employment in the areas of skills, salary and satisfaction.
- **Right Time** - Linkages that produce a skilled Alaskan workforce when and where needed.

AWIB Mission

To provide leadership, set policy, direction and accountability standards to get Alaskans into jobs.

AWIB Objectives

- 65 percent of training participants entering employment related to the training received.
- At least 60 percent of the training programs on the Eligible Training Provider List are either registered apprenticeships, adhere to industry-based skill standards, or result in accredited degrees.
- Increase the rate of participants entering employment by 2 percent per year.
- Increase market share among employer customers by 2 percent per year.
- Reduce non-resident employment by 3 percent.
- Earnings increase equal to 50 percent of a participant's training cost within six months.
- 60 percent of participants trained in occupations identified by the board as belonging to a priority industry.

AWIB Recommendations

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development are committed to pursuing the best possible employment opportunities for Alaskans. One of the primary duties of the board is to advise the Governor, Legislature, and stakeholders of the workforce investment system. The AWIB has assessed the 2006 performance of employment training programs and offers the following recommendations:

Governor and Legislature

- Aggressively expand the effective Jobs Are Alaska's Future initiative by supporting the Alaska Hire and Alaska Youth First initiative, and leveraging the resources of the High Growth Job Training Initiative for Energy.

- The Legislature should make the highly successful State Training and Employment Program (STEP) a permanent part of the workforce development system.

Other Stakeholders

- Business and industry must invest in growing Alaska's economy by committing resources to employment training and vocational education in order to achieve their Alaskan hire goals.
- Recognize and encourage that healthy communities encompass education, economic development and workforce development activities to improve the quality of life. Close relationships need to be cultivated to ensure that disadvantaged individuals do not fall through the cracks.
- Raise expectations for training and education quality and post-training employment.
- Increase coordination and collaboration between state and federal agencies, business and industry, and service providers.
- Equitable access, equal opportunity and equal representation for all aspects of workforce development, economic development, education and training for rural Alaskans.

Training and Service Providers

- End the duplication of effort created through multiple systems; look for opportunities to match funding sources and share responsibilities between private and public resources.
- Be responsive to business needs, the changing economy, and the workforce needs of the future.
- Educators and employers should prepare Alaska's youth for Alaskan jobs by adopting employability standards and coordinating with state agencies to make them effective tools.
- Implement the board approved policies that recommend industry-based skill standards in workforce development and training.

AWIB Membership

As of February, 2008 the board consists of 24 representatives of business and industry, education, organized labor, and state government and other individuals with specific experience/expertise in accordance with Alaska Statute 23.15.550.

Andy Baker

Chair, Business/Industry

Neal Foster

Business/Industry

Vacant

Business/Industry

Mayfield Evans

Business/Industry

Todd Bergman

Public Education

Tim Scott

Secondary & Post-Secondary Education

Vacant

Professional Experience with Developmental Disabilities

Betty Jo Dibble

Organized Labor

Jim Laiti

Organized Labor

Christopher Gregg

Organized Labor

John Palmatier

Organized Labor

M. J. Longley, Ph.D.

Native Organization

Vacant

Native Organization

Dave Rees

Private Sector

Cynthia Erickson

Private Sector

Richard Cattanach

Private Sector

Susan Denison

Private Sector

Karen Rogina

Private Sector

Linda Hulbert

Private Sector

Doug Ward

Private Sector

Sean Parnell

Lieutenant Governor

Karleen Jackson

Commissioner, Department of Health & Social Services

Clark "Click" Bishop

Commissioner, Department of Labor & Workforce Development

Emil Notti

Commissioner, Department of Community Commerce & Economic Development

Barbara Thompson

Commissioner, Department of Education & Early Development

Mark Hamilton

President, University of Alaska

Priority Industries

A critical component of the AWIB's policy oversight and planning is targeting priority industries for investment of workforce development resources. With the assistance of economists at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and input from industry groups, the board has identified the following priority industries for workforce development through training:

- Construction
- Transportation
- Resource Development (i.e., Oil, Mining, Logging)
- Health Service (Health Care)
- Tourism (Leisure and Hospitality)
- Seafood Processing
- Education
- IT (Information)

The following Training Program Performance 2006 report highlights Employment and Earnings of Training Program Participants Exiting Alaska Training Programs in FY2006. Included in this report is a Comparison of Performance with FY2003 through FY2006 program data.